

# The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton Newsletter

Nov  
1995

## Semi-annual General Meeting

All members of the GLCCE are asked to attend our semi-annual general meeting. This meeting will take place on **Thursday, November 23 at 7:15 p.m. at GLCCE**. During this meeting we will be covering the following items of business:

- Report on the year to date from the board of directors;
- Elections for vacant board positions;
- Announcement of committees and nominations volunteer positions;
- Questions and concerns from GLCCE members.

This meeting is an important opportunity for the board and the membership of GLCCE to meet and discuss issues facing the centre. We hope to see you there. The input of members is invaluable to the success of GLCCE.

## Kudos for Renos

The Board would like to thank everyone who helped with the renovations, as well as welcome aboard Illusions as a Centre Renter. These girls are just fantastic and they put in so many hours many of us on the Board were starting to feel guilty. Thanks bunches, ladies!!

We would also like to thank our major corporate donors, Jim at After Eight Flooring for the carpet and linoleum, and Castledowns Paint and Wallcoverings for supplying us with all the paint for the renovations. These guys are extremely gay positive and are very easy to work with. If you are doing any renovations, please call them first.

## Court upholds British Forces' ban on homosexuals

Date: Fri, 3 Nov 1995

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's Court of Appeal Friday upheld a ban on homosexuals serving in the military, saying it was neither irrational nor unlawful. The court rejected a test case brought by three homosexual men and a lesbian dismissed by the armed forces. It backed the ruling of a lower court which last June upheld the military's ban on homosexuals.

The appeal court judges rejected the fired military personnel's argument that the ban was "absurd, outrageous, perverse and impossible to justify." Court of Appeal Judge Thomas Bingham said: "The existing policy cannot in my judgement be stigmatized as irrational at the time when these appellants were discharged."

The British Ministry of Defense had argued that homosexuals would undermine the efficiency and morale of Britain's fighting forces. The dismissed personnel pledged to take their case to the House of Lords — Britain's final court of appeal. If they fail there, they said they will be "on the first available plane to Strasbourg (France)" for a hearing by the European Court of Human Rights.

Britain, in the European vanguard when it decriminalized homosexuality in 1967, last year lowered the age of consent for gays from 21 to 18. Homosexual relations once brought imprisonment. President Clinton had to back down from his election pledge to lift the U.S. ban after fierce resistance from the Pentagon. The United States has now adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" policy — gays can serve if they keep their orientation to themselves.

British armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said the appeals court decision would be greeted with relief by the army, navy and air force. "Potentially, the influence of these relationships is extremely disruptive to service life," he said. The latest figures show the armed forces discharged 260 men and women for homosexuality between 1991 and 1994.

Critics say homosexuals face periodic witch hunts, the constant fear of blackmail and a prejudice that encourages colleagues to inform on them. The opposition Labor Party, opinion poll favorite to win the next

British Forces Ban Can't Page 4

## Notes from... Education Services

Thanks to all who donated books to our library recently. This list is including but not limited to: Jeff S., Dave M, Woman to Woman Books, Sandy, Anne Erskine's parents and Mark Bilko. A special thank you to Sharon Baillie who donated in memory of her sister, to all those who donated anonymously, and to Orlando Books for fundraising efforts for our library (as well as their generous donations). Our library provides a great service to our membership and a research focal point for others needing information.

On October 4-5, Lisa and Jhessika from the Women's International Exchange Program of Canada World Youth, staged a play featuring a series of vignettes at the Catalyst Theatre. The show was titled "Bruised" and it focused on domestic violence in lesbian relationships. The Centre would like to thank all the actors, singers and volunteers who were involved. Great job everyone! Jhessika and Lisa have finished their placement as of October 11, 1995 and we at the centre wish them well.

### Inside this issue:

- Volunteer opportunities,
  - News stories hot off the press,
  - Fiction by a member,
  - Edmonton queer conference,
  - Internet tidbits,
  - Group info,
- and much, much more...  
(Not really. That's about it, actually. Still, that's rather a lot, don't you think?)



## QUEER:ACT:QUEER

### an interdisciplinary conference

"Queer Academy," an academic group of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members from various departments at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, we be hosting a two-day conference concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer studies on March 22 and 23, 1996.

This conference will coincide with the final 2 days of "Awareness Week" organised by OUTreach, a long established queer identities social group on campus.

The conference planning committee requests abstracts and/or proposals for papers, presentations, workshops, and panels that discuss queer issues of all kinds with, however, a particular focus on ACTIVISM and PERFORMANCE.

Possible areas: AIDS and related research, bigotry, bodies, business, communities, film and video, glamour, homophobia, humour, intellectual and political activism, law and the law, native issues, nursing, parenting, performance and performability, philosophy, public education, race and ethnicity, theatre, theory, etc.

The aim of the conference is to interface queer topics across the disciplines in such a way that the boundary between all kinds of queer academic research and the broader cultures in which we live may be subdued.

Submissions to:

John L. Plews

Dept. of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies

University of Alberta

Edmonton, AB

CANADA T6G 2E6

or: jplews@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

Deadline for submissions: January 15, 1996.

Proceedings will be published.

Guest speakers include poet and videomaker Marusya Bociurkiew and interdisciplinary artist and filmmaker Lynne Fernie.

## Court OKs Gays To Adopt In NY

Date: Thu, 2 Nov 1995

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — In a ruling hailed by gay rights advocates, New York's highest court declared Thursday that unmarried people — gay or heterosexual — have a right to adopt their partners' children. Since state laws recognize that single adults can adopt, regardless of sexual orientation, the right must also be extended to partners in gay or heterosexual relationships, the Court of Appeals decided in a narrow 4-3 vote. "To rule otherwise would mean that the thousands of New York children actually being raised in homes headed by two unmarried persons could have only one legal parent, not the two who want them," Chief Judge Judith Kaye wrote.

New York becomes the third state after Vermont and Massachusetts whose highest court has recognized the right of a person

in a homosexual relationship to adopt the other partner's child, according to Suzanne Goldberg, a spokeswoman for the gay rights group Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The top court for the District of Columbia has also legalized such adoptions. "Gay parents, like non-gay parents, want the best for their children," said Lambda's Beatrice Dohrn, who represented a lesbian couple in the case before the Court of Appeals. "The court's ruling will allow any parent in the state to better provide for their children's needs and interests."

Republican Gov. George Pataki charged that the ruling oversteps the line between the judiciary and the other branches of government. And the Rev. Duane Motley of Spencerport, head of the Christian Coalition-affiliated New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms, said: "The best environment to raise a child is a family environment, where

Gays Adopt In NY Con't Page 4

## Tune In and Turn This On

Program Pride - Coming to a community centre near you soon! The recent taping will be aired around town during the early part of November. If you want to have input on the program, call Allie at 488-3234.

CJSR (88.5 FM) - Catch these shows weekly on CJSR: Gaywire at 6:00 p.m. Thursdays and Queeries at 7:00 p.m. Fridays. During the CJSR fund drive, Gaywire raised \$560 in pledges from their listeners. Congratulations and thanks to the supporters of this important source of information and connection for our community.

Please listen to your community radio programs for special community events and information.

## Group Information

Illusions Social Club - The TV/TS social club has joined GLCCE as Centre Renters. This will increase GLCCE's awareness about the needs of the TV/TS community and hopefully provide a bridge over a gap of misunderstanding. Illusions members Roxanne, Rachel, Dixie and Vikki have all offered to take the GLCCE host training course and talk with people who are at GLCCE on Tuesday nights. Please call GLCCE for more information.

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) continues to meet at GLCCE every third (3rd) Tuesday of the month. Call Lynne at 462-5958 for more information.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) - GALA has its first meeting on October 12. The meeting went well, but as always, they are looking for new members. If you are interested in discussing civil rights or politics, call 488-3234 and leave a message for Murray B. or Roz.

Con't Page 3



This is a trial run of a community calendar. If you are involved in a group that would like to have their event included please leave a note for the newsletter editor at GLCCE.

**Guide to the abbreviations and contact information**

<b>Badminton Group</b>	Contact Frank at 990-1696 for the schedule. Meets on Fridays at Oliver School between 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
<b>Edmonton Prime Timers</b>	Meetings held 2nd Sunday of each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. Contact Terry at 477-3493.
<b>EVM - Edmonton Vocal Minority</b>	Is having a concert the night of the 25th. Location: Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. Call David 424-1561 or Lorna 423-6987.
<b>ISCWR - Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose</b>	Society meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday. Call Gaylines at 486-9661 box 27.
<b>Les-Bi-Gay Darts Club</b>	Call 428-8847 or 421-4427. Meets at GLCCE the first Thursday of month at 7:30 p.m.
<b>Loud &amp; Queer Festival '95</b>	November 22-26 at the Catalyst Theatre. Call 431-1750.
<b>MCC - Metropolitan Community Church</b>	Call 429-2321. Meets Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and first and third Wednesdays of month.
<b>Northern Chaps</b>	Meets at Boots & Saddle on first and third Friday at 9 p.m.
<b>Northern Titans</b>	Bowling time is 5:15 every Saturday at Lynwood Bowl on 16127 - 118 Ave. Call 454-1458 for info.
<b>Orlando's Book Launch - Queer View Mirror</b>	Book launch that evening for an anthology of very short stories by lesbian and gay authors including our very own Graham Watts.
<b>OUTreach</b>	Information line: 988-4166. Meets Mondays at 5:00 p.m. in the Heritage Lounge of Athabasca Hall at the University of Alberta.
<b>PFLAG - Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays</b>	Meets are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info call Cindy at 459-8379, Newsletter editor 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 448-0179, Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (24 hour recording)
<b>Visions: Unitarian Church of Edmonton</b>	Meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992.
<b>Womonspace</b>	For information call the Lesbian Life at 425-0511.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 MCC	2 Les-Bi-Gay Darts Club	3 Northern Chaps Badminton Group	4 Northern Titans
5 MCC	6 OUTreach - Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall	7	8	9	10 Badminton Group	11 Northern Titans
12 Edm Prime Timers MCC	13 OUTreach - Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall	14	15 MCC	16	17 Northern Chaps Badminton Group	18 Northern Titans Womonspace Craft Fair & Dance
19 MCC	20 OUTreach - Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall	21 PFLAG	22 Visions: Unitarian	23 GLCCE - AGM	24 Badminton Group Orlando's - Book Launch Queer View Mirror	25 Northern Titans EVM - Con. Hall UofA
Loud & Queer Festival '95						
26 Edm Prime Timers MCC	27 OUTreach - Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall	28	29 ISCWR	30	1 Badminton Group	2 Northern Titans
L&Q Fest.						



Bears of Edmonton and Area Recreational Society (BEARS) - The BEARS group has generously donated a computer (sans the VGA monitor) to the Centre. This was appreciated very much. The BEARS group activities are as follows:

- Nov 11 - BEARS visit the other place (Red Deer)
- To be announced - Hot tub party

For an up-to-date listing of events for this group, please call Gaylines at 486-9661 voice box 5.

**Pink Triangle Youth Group of Edmonton (PTYE)** - The Youth Group was reinstated by GLCCE at the beginning of October. The expected operational date will be the end of November. In the mean time, we have need of five female and one male facilitator to balance the group we currently have. Please call and volunteer one or two Saturday's a month. Only the serious need respond. Please call Sky at 488-3234.

**OUTreach** - The UofA campus student group continues to meet on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. in the Heritage Lounge in Athabasca Hall. Information on upcoming events can be obtained by calling their information line at 988-4166.

## Coming Out Can Be Fun

by Graham Watts

When in the Mill Woods Town Centre Safeway one Friday, I chose a checkout where there was only one person ahead of me, and placed my groceries on the conveyor belt. The cashier was young, probably a university student. When she had nearly done my supplies, the bagger came on duty. He could have been a grade 12 student. Good looking, a beautiful smile, his teeth were so even that he must have worn braces for years. He started flirting with the cashier who responded with a smile.

"Hey! A smile," he said.

"I always smile," she said.

"No you don't."

"I do so."

He turned toward me, as I waited for my change, and said, "She doesn't, you know. She never smiles."

The cashier flashed her most winning smile and asked me, "Who do you believe, me... or HIM?"

"Him, of course," I said.

The young man beamed.

"You guys! This is a conspiracy," she said.

"No, it has more to do with this pin I have on my collar," I said, and pointed to the pink triangle that I always wear.

They leaned forward to look more closely at the pin.

"What is it?" she said.

"It's a symbol of the gay community," I said.

There was a moment of silence and serious faces.

"Oh!" she said.

And we all burst into laughter.

## Gay-rights debate focuses on Maine

Date: Sun, 5 Nov 1995

PORTLAND, Maine (Reuter) - In the first test of an anti-gay rights referendum in an eastern state, Maine voters will decide on Tuesday whether to bar communities from granting civil rights and other protections to homosexuals. The measure promoted by two conservative groups is opposed by civil rights advocates and Maine's business community, who claim it will promote bigotry and have unintended consequences.

Supporters argue that the referendum is needed to prohibit gay men and lesbians from obtaining "special rights." It would strike down local gay-rights ordinances adopted by Portland and a small island community. A recent poll by WCSH-TV in Portland indicated opponents held a slight lead but private surveys have painted the race as a dead heat.

The question does not specifically mention homosexuals, but the target is evident in its supporters' campaign. TV ads warn that school children could be forced to learn the "homosexual lifestyle" if the measure fails. "This referendum will protect fami-

Gay Rights - Maine Con't Page 4

## Postcards from the 'Net

For those of you who are plugged into the internet here are some resources that may be of interest.

**Fiction readers:** Clive Barker, author of such works as Weaveworld and Imagica, as well as the stories for movies such as Hellraiser and Lord of Illusions has a web-site shrine. Find this at: Web of Lost Souls—"The Official Clive Barker Web Site" <http://www.barkerverse.com/>

**Rainbow resources** is yet another homepage of links of interest to the gay and lesbian community. This is an index to a wide array of general interest, political, social and other kinds of GLB web pages. Access this at <http://www.geopages.com/Hollywood/1166/>

In the words of the advertisement: "Amidst all the postings for odd overseas phone numbers, half-working web sites, and cryptic links to dark spots on the 'net, I invite you to visit a place called **The Gay Cafe**, where your privacy and enjoyment is at the focus of attention." If you're curious check this out at <http://www.gaycafe.com/>

Are you curious yet confused by this article? If you have any questions about using the internet, computers, etc. send your letters to Sean Andrew c/o GLCCE. If you already have access to e-mail, save yourself the postage and zap a message off to [sandrew@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca](mailto:sandrew@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca). Suggestions and tips are also cheerfully received.



## Gay rights - Maine Con't

lies and working Mainers against a militant, aggressive (homosexual) agenda," Carolyn Cosby, chairwoman of Concerned Maine Families, said in a recent television debate.

Opponents contend the measure will lead to increased discrimination, strike down the state's hate crime laws and hamper economic development by giving Maine a political black eye. "The last thing we need is a national story that says 'Maine discriminates' or 'Maine legalizes discrimination,'" said Gov. Angus King, who has campaigned against the measure for Maine Won't Discriminate. Maine Won't Discriminate has raised over \$1 million, 10 times the amount that the measure's supporters have raised.

Maine is the first eastern U.S. state to vote on an anti-gay rights referendum. Colorado approved an anti-gay rights amendment in 1992. Oregon defeated initiatives in 1992 and 1994 as did Idaho in 1994. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently debating whether the Colorado amendment violates the right to equal protection. Lower courts have already ruled it is unconstitutional.

The authors of Maine's initiative contend it avoids the legal weaknesses of Colorado's measure because its wording does not specifically target homosexuals and because it is a law rather than a constitutional amendment. Some constitutional experts discount that theory, noting that the measure's supporters have made their intent clear by making the issue sexual preference the focus of their campaign. "It seems to me a court could and probably would take into account the purpose as well as the effect of such a proposal," Richard Maiman, professor of political science at the University of Southern Maine, told a radio interviewer. Opponents of the Maine initiative have vowed a court fight if it is approved Tuesday.

The campaign has also featured a feud between Concerned Maine Families and another pro referendum group, The Coalition to End Special Rights. The groups claim the split is over campaign strategy, but observers believe it is largely a personality clash between their leaders.

The Maine legislature has debated statewide gay rights protection several times in the past 20 years, approving a bill in 1994 only to have it vetoed by then-governor John McKernan. The Maine referendum would not bar legislators from approving a state gay rights law in the future, but both opponents and supporters have acknowledged a "yes" vote on Tuesday would make lawmakers unlikely to do so.

## British Forces Ban Con't

election, says the ban is an unacceptable infringement of civil liberties and it favours lifting it. Labor has singled out for praise the Australian Armed Forces' approach — homosexuals are allowed to serve but not have sexual relations with each other. But Labor could, like President Clinton, face a political bombshell if elected.

## Volunteer Information and Opportunities

As always, we are in need of volunteers. This time, however, our needs are very specific. We need:

- Youth Group Facilitators (5 female and 1 male) - Please refer to the listing for the Pink Triangle Youth Group of Edmonton (PTYE) under Group Information for more details.
- people with carpet laying experience
- individuals with fundraising experience;
- a plumber;
- a commercial electrician;
- 7 hosts (training to be started in November)
- 15 peer counsellors (training to be started in November)

Please phone Sky at 488-3234 if you are interested in volunteering.

## Gays Adopt in NY Con't

there is a man and a woman together, married. We think the court greatly erred."

One case decided Thursday involved a woman identified in court papers as "G.M.," a 51-year-old special education teacher, and her attempt to adopt "Dana," the 5-year-old daughter of her female companion, a 38-year-old health club manager. The couple, whose relationship goes back 19 years, live in Kent, outside New York City. The other case concerned an adoption attempt by "Stephen T.K.," who has lived in Oneida County since 1991 with his girlfriend and her son Jake, who is also 5. Dana was conceived by her mother after she was artificially inseminated with the sperm of an anonymous donor. Jake's biological father did not object to "Stephen T.K." becoming the boy's legal father, according to court papers. "It's going to be very positive for Jake and it's really positive for children in general," said "Stephen T.K.," who asked that his identity not be revealed. "There's a lot of people that benefited from this."

Ruth Harlow, attorney for the ACLU, said her group's reading of ruling indicates that all unmarried couples — gay or heterosexual — have been given the right to adopt not only the biological children of one of the partners, but non-related children as well. "I think the clear implication here is that two unmarried persons likewise can adopt," she said. The lawyer for "Stephen T.K.," Nicholas Priore, said that by allowing unmarried partners to adopt, the court can guarantee that the children receive a range of financial benefits that are now in question. "Child support, inheritance, health insurance, pension rights, Social Security benefits — those protections will all be there for the child," he said.

## GLCCE Wish List

If you or anyone you know can donate any of these items, please call Sylvia at the centre.

- 25 sheets of drywall (8'x4')
- carpet glue
- carpet sealer
- 1" moldings (40')
- paint brushes and rollers
- 5 lbs of drywall screws
- filing cabinets (any size - new or used)
- book shelves
- 2 secretarial desks
- a VGA monitor
- Office supplies
  - pens
  - pencils
  - loose-leaf paper
  - small binders
  - pencil sharpener (wall or desk mounted is preferable)
- desk or floor lamps
- any extra furniture you may have kicking around that is in good shape.

## French gay group mourns Rabin

Date: Mon, 6 Nov 1995

PARIS (Reuters) - A French gay rights group paid tribute to slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday, saying he had once authorised the reunion of an Israeli man and a Palestinian man separated by the border. The group Homosexualities and Socialism called it "a simple and grand gesture ... showing his respect for life and love, this force that brings beings together without any nationalities, borders, religions or conflicts."

In a letter to acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres the group asked him to convey its condolences to Rabin's family. It gave no details about the reunited male couple.

## Gay & LESBIAN Community Center of Edmonton

Thank you's the following contributors: Graham Watts, all the GLCCE board members who did stuff. You know who you are.  
Sean Andrew  
Editor and Secretary,  
GLCCE Board of Directors